

PARK & RECREATION MINUTES
TUESDAY, JULY 12, 2005
6:30 P.M.

- Call to Order:** The Parks & Recreation Board met on the above date and time in the Council Chambers, 270 West 15th Street, Rushville. President Denny Corn called the meeting to order. Members present were David Hasecuster, Wilma Jo Kile, Jack Harmon, Tim Shuppert and Jan Voiles. Others present were Parks Director Danny Mathews, Attorney Julie Newhouse, Secretary Carla Sharpe, Pool Manager Anita Carfield, Assistant Pool Manager Jean Kopf, Council President Mike Pavey, and Paul Barada and Liz Gratzner of Rush County Victims Assistance.
- Minutes:** Minutes of June 14th was presented for approval. Harmon moved to approve minutes as presented. Hasecuster seconded. Motion carried. Minutes approved.
- Reports:** Board member Harmon handed out literature that was compiled at last Friday's Amphitheater meeting. Harmon shared with the board that this was a good meeting. Corn allowed Harmon to be the spokesman on the Parks Board's behalf. These guys have worked hard to put this together and they have pulled some things off that we would have never been able to pull off. Our hats are certainly off to them. It's not their intent to say ok now Parks Board here it is, now have fun with it. They are willing to help us in the transition and we know there are a lot of things that need to be talked about. During the course of the following fall/winter we want to put together a Procedures Manual. Harmon asked to make this Amphitheater a standing agenda item so he can bring the board's thoughts back and take feedback back to the group. It is not their intent to say here it is guys have fun with it, it's a transitional period and things need to be worked out. There are several levels of activities that will be going on there which have to have separate examples such as weddings, or City event - Movie in the Park and then biggest level is the big sponsor-promoter event. Harmon then stated that Pavey was here tonight to answer any questions this board might have. The board reviewed the information that was handed out concerning questions that have been brought up and ideas that have been given and information from other cities. We don't have a Procedures Manual to propose to you tonight as this is just too big of an animal to take care of in one meeting, its going to take a series of meetings.
- Pavey went over the handouts with the Parks Board.
He said the first event was put on with little input and he apologizes. Is asking the Parks Board to help answer questions and is now asking for help.
We want the Parks Board to help us make these decisions now.
In dealing with vendors, how do we want to handle them? Do we want to charge for them to set up? Is there going to be a difference between local, out of town or charitable vendors?
- Shuppert asked if anyone has looked into the cost of moving the train depot there. Voiles and Pavey said that has already been committed to Connersville.
- Kile asked what Frisbee golf was as that was on a lot of the surveys. Pavey said like golf, you set up a place and throw a Frisbee into a pole in the ground and the pole has a basket and from the top of the pole to the end of the pole it has chains and when the Frisbee hits the chains it drops down and you keep score just like golf.
- Corn asked if there is money for restrooms. Pavey said that this year there is no money and that yes, next year we need to put the money into the budget to finish this park. Pavey said the Mayor is looking for grant monies and budget money. Corn asked if the Parks Department was the grounds keeper. Pavey said yes. Pavey said this is more of a retreat park. This will be used more for the nature trail or particular any planned event. Shuppert asked if there was a comprehensive site drawing. Pavey said yes with the levy project and we have an aerial with a drop boundary line around it. Shuppert asked for a copy of that and would like to have a legal description. Kile stated she and Carla have been working on the surveys and we have gotten a lot of good responses. Pavey said a lot of commitments from other groups are coming in. If sponsored series of concerts, the Rotary would like to get involved to park cars. Hasecuster questioned vendors. Pavey said he feels the location of the vendors should be on the right side of the theater as a lot of the elderly set there and would be easier for them to get too. Pavey said that he is having Danny Bennett quote a second entrance into the park and thinks it will be somewhere around \$3,500 to \$4,200. Harmon said this is a learning curve. We will learn from each event. Hasecuster said that the vendors for the fair pay for a spot and have to show proof of insurance.

Park & Rec. Minutes 7-12-2005

Page Two

Newhouse reminded the board that the vendors have to go through the Health Department for inspection too.

Different pricing was discussed.

Mathews stated for parks programs he tries to go with Not for Profit groups.

Voiles suggested letting Danny use his own discretion as this is a learning experience and asked all too just share what they've learned.

Pavey suggested for now let the local vendors in free and charge the out of town and field them from there.

Harmon moved, for the event on the 30th, our approach is to charge a permit fee for out of town vendors and no fee for local vendors.

Shuppert asked if this is legal. Newhouse stated she feels you need to treat everyone equal and that a Resolution will have to be in place in order to charge.

Shuppert said that he feels a \$50 charge is ok. Hasecuster said that is too cheap.

Newhouse said she will prepare a resolution.

Harmon moved to make a recommendation to the Council to all Not-For-Profit - no permit fees and profitable groups to purchase a permit for \$50.00. Shuppert seconded. Motion carried.

Pavey then stressed to the board that we need to think about advertising. He has already had a guy want to be the first sponsor. If we were to put up a fence and put a 4x8 sign he wants to be the first board there. This will help offset costs. Something else to think about is if someone wants to name the Amphitheater, how much?

The Board thanked Pavey for coming and answering questions.

Pool Manager Anita Carfield then handed out her report:

Since our last meeting, we have had an average daily attendance of 152 patrons per day.

Our biggest day since our June meeting was June 24 with 256 patrons in attendance, \$528.50 in admissions and \$336.55 in concessions. We have closed early 3 times since the June meeting, once due to rain and twice due to vomiting in the pool. We have had at least two saves in the last month, and we commend our guards for their efforts and diligence in this area.

Our average daily admission from June 12-July 10 has been \$283.91 while our average daily concession intake has been \$154.81.

We're completing our July morning lessons this week. We had 10 guards give lessons to 23 pupils last week. This week 10 guards are giving lessons to 42 pupils.

Last Wednesday was our first "Open Swim" for the season from 6-7 P.M. We had three in attendance. We hope to increase as the month progresses.

Raymond Gibson Day (Free Admission Day) is scheduled for Sunday, July 24.

We've had 16 parties so far this season and 19 more are scheduled through August 9th.

Jean and I have been very impressed with our new chlorination system. It has made life much easier for us and much-much safer. According to my calculations we use an average of 7.2 gallons of acid per day and 25 gallons of chlorine per day. Thank you for supporting Danny in this decision to upgrade this system. We appreciate your interest in the well-being of our health.

Even though school starts on August 11 for teachers this year, we have several younger guards who would be willing to work weekends until Labor Day. I would like to propose to the Board that we close the pool on Wednesday, August 10th and open each Saturday and Sunday until Labor Day. Our hours would be shorter – Saturday 12-4 and Sunday 1-4. We would continue to be open each weekend until Labor Day as long as the crowd continues and the weather holds. We would not schedule pool parties, and if the weather turns cold, or if enough patrons do not attend (about 60-100 per day) then the terms above would be null and void, and the pool would close for the season on any of the weekends in which the terms above could not be met. If these terms are agreeable to the Board, we would really like to try and keep the pool open through Labor Day like many surrounding areas do.

Mathews said he tried this one year and it turned cold with no good turn out.

Harmon said we have an opportunity, let's do it.

Voiles agreed.

Hasecuster asked if they were going to run the concession stand. Carfield said yes, they are going to run on what they have until it's gone.

Mathews said he feels the new system is a cost savings.

Harmon said he has figured it will run \$63 a day for chemical costs.

Kile said let's see what happens, let's do it.

Unfinished Business:

Paul Barada Jr. – Rush County Victims Assistance – "Swim with your Dog Day" –

Barada handed out a copy of Rush County Victims' Assistance Dog Swim Proposal:

The date they had picked was Saturday, August 13th with a rain date of Sunday, August 14th. Time: 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Cost: \$5.00 per dog.

They will have a registration table at the south gate where owners will sign the legal waiver and sign up their dog for door prizes. This will also be the area where there will be a display for the RCVA. Dogs will not be permitted inside the bathhouse. Restrooms (not showers) will need to be available to owners.

We will have signs posted around the entrance as well as the pool area stating the rules of the Dog Swim.

- All dogs must be kept on a leash.
- All children must be accompanied by an adult over the age of 18.
- All dogs must be brushed before entering the pool area.
- Please, no dogs in heat!

All chemicals must be stopped upon the close of the pool to the public. This will allow chemical levels to go down to an acceptable level for the dogs. We spoke to Dr. Rob Jackman and he felt that this would be safe for all dogs. All filters must be shut down the day of the event. This will keep the filters from being overloaded by large amounts of dog hair.

RCVA members will need to wear their T-shirts the day of the event. There will need to be two members working the registration table. The rest of the members will need to be visible to owners in case of questions or emergencies.

Every 20 minutes an RCVA member will announce a name of a lucky pooch that will win a door prize. All door prizes will be donated from local vets, dog food companies, and pet supply stores. (Next year we need to see about the Key Club or Girl Scouts getting the prizes for us).

This event will be advertised or promoted as a DOG Swim, not a PEOPLE Swim.

However, if the owner wishes to get into the water that is their choice. We will need to have lifeguards on duty regardless.

We do not anticipate any fighting between dogs because the pool is neutral territory for them. We have spoken to Pam Gibson of the Franklin Parks Department. They have run a successful dog swim for several years. She has stated that they have never experienced any problems of this nature. We will need to make sure the rules are visibly posted in several areas. If owners are willing to take the risk of letting their dogs off of the leash then they will have to deal with the consequences.

There will be no food items available because of temptation of our four-legged friends.

Clean –up should be relatively easy. Take the skimmer baskets and skim the dog hair from the top of the water. Drain the water from the pool and allow to dry for a day or so.

Then, using several large deck brooms, sweep up the remaining dirt and hair.

Different date was discussed now that the pool will be open until Labor Day.

Shuppert moved to allow swim pending closing date of the pool. Kile seconded. Motion carried.

The date to be announced.

Reports:

Mathews reported that the Skateboard Park is open and so far so good. Next week he's taking a week off then he will contact the kids and begin work on that park. He has been busy of late with Relay for Life, the Amphitheater and with the extra help from the jail he has accomplished a lot of major things such as painting the playground equipment and renovating the old office.

Mathews said he suggested moving the old office to the levy.

Kile said that she feels locking the Skateboard Park has made a statement.

Harmon questioned the budget. He said that two weeks ago the budget was turned in and this board hasn't even seen it.

Harmon feels that in April, Mathews should ask for ideas, the first draft should be ready by May and turned in in June.

Mathews stated he feels the Parks Board should approve his budget.

Harmon questioned the need for one new full time employee and asked what the responsibilities would be.

Corn said that by adding the Booker T. Center and with the new Amphitheater he feels there are more responsibilities.

Kile stated she feels Mathews needs more help by adding two big new responsibilities.

Harmon said that yes as we add new events and venues he realizes Mathews can't do this on his own but not sure it's a full time position he should put in the budget.

Mathews said his jail inmates are working 9-10 hours a day and he is working 10-12 hours a day now.

Voiles questioned if this is only seasonal and what will he do in the winter time. Do we need a full time person for a full year?

Mathews said he feels if he can hire one like the jail inmate he can eliminate 2 summertime employees.

Mathews said now with this new park office they can work inside in the winter months.

Corn stated that money wise, if we eliminate two employees in the summer and hire one new full time this could all be a wash.

Harmon asked how one body can replace two bodies.

Mathews said that at the end of August he will lose his summer help and inmates. Then it will be just him, Donnie and Chris.

Shuppert suggested to keep using the inmates from the jail.
Harmon stated he wants to know what we are expecting the parks employees to do. Can you keep them busy all year?
Harmon then stressed that he feels we should start early on the budget and form a budget committee. You are asking us to approve this budget tonight with adding one new person and I feel this is very fiscally irresponsible without having any facts and figures to go by. I'm not saying I won't support it, but I can't support this on a two minute response.
Kile suggested starting earlier on the budget every year.
Harmon stated he just can't support this line item at this time.
Mathews said "mark it out".
Mathews said he gets his budget sheet the first of June and it has to be turned back in the first of July.
Shuppert said we as a board need to participate in the development of this budget.
Harmon feels we should form a budget committee.
Shuppert said he has no reason to doubt Mathews.
Harmon said that as a board we have fiscal responsibility.
Kile moved to give Mathews permission to hire a full time person if Council approves it.
Shuppert seconded. Harmon opposed. Motion carried.

Mathews reminded board members of the Movie in the Park on July 23rd.

Kile thanked Hasecuster for allowing us to set at his fair booth and hand out the surveys.
Sharpe thanked all board members who worked the fair booth and handed out surveys.

Shuppert said he hopes that a fair share of what comes out of the Amphitheater comes back to the parks and stated he's not sure someone shouldn't manage this facility.

New Business:

Mathews stated that under circumstances the City Council meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays and the Parks board meets the 2nd Tuesday, once a month, and he has a problem with the City Council having to approve his claims and the Parks board too.
He stated at times this has caused conflicts with vendors getting paid. He said they have to wait 30 days to get paid.
Shuppert said that's not unreasonable as the school runs on the same system.
Mathews asked if there was any solution to this.
Mathews asked again why the budget and claims have to be approved by both the Council and the Parks board.
Newhouse stated she thinks it's because the Council has not given up that power.
Shuppert said then we need to approach City Council on this .
Shuppert said at the most he sees vendors waiting 45 days for their checks.
Shuppert moved to allow President Corn to approach the City Council with permission to allow the Parks Board to approve their own claims.
Mathews thanked the board and said he was just looking for a solution.
Kile seconded the motion. Motion carried.

There being no further business, Harmon moved to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:25 P.M.

DENNY CORN, PRESIDENT

JACK HARMON, VICE PRESIDENT

TIM SHUPPERT, MEMBER

WILMA JO KILE, MEMBER

JAN VOILES, MEMBER

DAVID HASECUSTER, MEMBER

ATTEST:

CARLA SHARPE, SECRETARY

